

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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OXLEY: KIDS, SENIORS, TAXPAYERS TO SUFFER UNDER NEW STATE BUDGET

INDIANAPOLIS – A biennial state budget plan that goes into effect today (July 1) will cause great pain to children, older Hoosiers and property taxpayers throughout the 73^d House District, according to State Rep. Dennie Oxley (D-English).

“Now that the new state budget has become law, Gov. Mitch Daniels and those in the majorities in both the Indiana House and Senate will be filling your ears with their company line that this is an honestly balanced budget,” Oxley said. “If they were truly honest about it, they would admit the budget is balanced on the backs of our kids, our seniors and anyone who pays property taxes in Indiana.

“Since they crafted this budget without any input from Democrats in the House or Senate, I am sure that the majorities will be delighted to take all the credit for what will be taking place in Indiana,” he continued. “They should get all the credit for raising property taxes for homeowners, cutting school funding and making sure that area seniors do not get the home health care services they deserve.”

While the governor and others claim the budget contains increased funding for schools, Oxley said that additional support only comes through increases in local property taxes. In the counties that make up the 73^d House District, fiscal experts project local property taxes will increase by more than \$9.5 million in order to provide added education funding.

As local property taxpayers find themselves footing the bill for more education costs, Oxley noted that they will receive less relief from the state than in the past because the budget caps the amount that can be received through Property Tax Replacement Credits.

“This is the program that is designed to use state funds to bring you relief on your property taxes,” Oxley said. “By capping this program, the governor and his legislative colleagues are ensuring that property taxpayers will see larger bills. Supporters admit the budget will increase local property taxes. What makes this so depressing is that it reverses a bipartisan trend in recent years that was devoted to reducing the burdens faced by local property taxpayers.

“If your property taxes go up, blame the majorities in the Indiana General Assembly and the governor,” he noted. “This budget will harm schoolchildren and your pocketbook.”

In addition, the budget contains no additional funding for CHOICE, which provides in-home health care for the elderly and disabled. As a result, Oxley said more than 3,500 seniors across the 73^d District will have to remain on a waiting list for services.

“For all the claims being made about this budget being in balance, the governor and his colleagues are not admitting that this budget is way out of balance in terms of who it helps and who it hurts,” Oxley said. “The pain that this budget will cause will be long-lasting and severe, and those who are proud of their work should be ashamed.”

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H73